

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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For Immediate Release

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Ferndale Man Arrested for Soliciting Exploitation of Children Video

Robert L. Lawley, age 64, was arrested on October 6, 2005, for sexual exploitation of a minor; dealing in depictions of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct; and sending/bringing into state depictions of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

Lawley was allegedly communicating in a chat room on the Internet and requested a video of children involved in sexually explicit conduct. Lawley did not know that his alleged request for the video was to an undercover U.S. Postal Inspector. The U.S. Postal Inspector's Office contacted the Washington State Patrol's Missing and Exploited Children Task Force for investigative assistance.

The Washington State Patrol Missing and Exploited Children Task Force, in collaboration with the Postal Inspector's Office, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office, and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, arrested Lawley at his residence following an in-depth investigation. The arrest followed the controlled delivery of a video tape that Lawley allegedly believed contained the illegal material. Lawley was booked into the Whatcom County Jail.

The Missing and Exploited Children Task Force is a multi-agency task force that assists law enforcement, state and federal agencies, and the proper custodial parent(s) or guardian(s) by conducting investigations on missing, abducted, and exploited children. For more information about the task force, please contacted Sergeant Dan Sharp at (360) 753-0315, ext. 144 or visit www.wsp.wa.gov/missing/ourkids.htm

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